

REMARKS

In Response to the Non-Final Office Action dated December 27, 2007, please review and consider the following remarks. Claims 1-97 are presently pending in this Application with no claims having been allowed. Upon entry of this Amendment and Response, which cancels claims 1-97 and adds new claims 98- 129, claims 98-129 will be pending. No new matter has been added.

Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview with Applicant's Attorney on March 21, 2008. In the interview, the cited *Yuen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,381) and *Herrington* (U.S. Patent No. 6,922,843) references were discussed. No agreement was reached as to the proposed claim language.

Office Action

The Examiner rejected claims 1-97 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or rendered obvious by, *Yuen* and *Herrington* either alone or in combination. Applicant has canceled claims 1-97 and has added new claims 98-129 which Applicant believes further clarify the claimed subject matter of the claims. Some of the new claims are similar to previously presented claims and as such will be discussed in the context of the previous claim to which they relate.

New Independent Claim 98

New independent claim 98 is directed to recording media content would normally be enabled for viewing by a user but that falls outside of an approved time period. The media content may be recorded and the recording made available for access during the approved time interval. For example, if a program has been enabled for a child authorization level and the approved time interval for the child authorization level is between 4:00 and 6:00 PM, and the program is presented in real-time at 8:00 PM, then the program is recorded and enabled for access between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. No new matter has been entered (see e.g., paragraph 118).

New Claim 98 is similar to canceled claim 9 which the Examiner rejected on Page 5, Paragraph 15 of the Office Action. The Examiner asserted that *Yuen* discloses:

permanently recording the media content that the user has access to a personal video recording device, when the media content is presented in real-time during an interval of time that was not enabled by the administrator, for later access during an enabled interval of time [programs, including time intervals containing blocked scenes, may be recorded for access at a later time, col. 8, 26-39].

It is respectfully submitted that *Yuen* does not teach or disclose the limitations of claim 98. The passage cited by the Examiner relates to recording programs in which the program may have some objectionable content and recording an indication of the offensive scene into the recording. It is respectfully submitted that there is no mention of preventing viewing of the content due to a time restriction and then later allowing viewing of the content during an enabled time.

Dependent claims 99-102

Dependent claims 99-102 add additional limitations and are believed allowable at least on the grounds that they depend from allowable base claim 98.

New Independent Claim 103

New independent claim 103 is directed to a method for displaying media content updates to the administrator, the updates comprising only changes to the media content that have occurred since the administrator last defined the media content for access. This allows an administrator to quickly and easily view new media content and make decisions related to the access of the updated content. For example, an update indicating new pay per view media content may be displayed and the administrator provided the ability to enable the new content for a desired authorization level. No new matter has been entered (see e.g., page 14, paragraph 116 and FIG. 24).

New claim 103 is similar to original claim 18. The Examiner rejected original claim 18 on Page 8 of the Office Action (Paragraph 24) asserting the *Herrington* discloses providing a user interface display that provides the administrator with the ability to access content provider updates to the media content citing Col. 7, lines 49-59 and Col. 9 lines 26-49. The *Herrington* reference was discussed in the interview and it was agreed that the

Herrington reference did not teach or disclose displaying updates that occur after the media content access was last changed by the administrator, and therefore it is believed that claim 103 is allowable.

Dependent Claims 104-109

Dependent claims 104-109 add additional limitations and are believed allowable at least on the grounds that they depend from allowable base claim 103.

New Independent Claim 110

New independent claim 110 is directed to providing an interactive program guide (IPG) that only displays blocks associated with media content that is enabled for the user's authorization level. No new matter has been added (see e.g., Page 5 paragraph 117). It is respectfully submitted that *Yuen* and *Herrington*, either alone or in combination do not disclose or teach these limitations. While FIG. 8 of *Yuen* shows a parental control screen indicating programs that are available for viewing, it is respectfully submitted that the display is not a redacted block program guide. During the interview, the Examiner referenced FIG. 14 of *Herrington* and it was discussed that FIG. 14 does not disclose blocking out non-enabled programs from an IPG.

Dependent Claim 111

Dependent claim 111 adds additional limitations to claim 110 and is believed allowable at least on the grounds that it depends from allowable base claim 110.

New Independent Claim 112

New claim 112 is directed to displaying media content to a user having a first authorization level for which the media content is enabled and displaying an icon with the media content to indicate whether the media content is enabled for a second authorization level. For example, a parent with an administrative authorization level may enter a WatchTV option to watch in real-time media content that shows a parental control icon in the corner of the display screen. No new matter has been entered (see e.g., Specification page 13 paragraph 105; FIG. 11B).

New claim 112 is similar to canceled claim 13. On Page 6 of the Office Action (Paragraph 19) the Examiner rejected claim 13 asserting that *Herrington* discloses:

a method of providing an administrator with an icon that enables the administrator to select the media content instance for enabled access from a displayed presentation of the media content instance [video is presented in screen 252 of FIG. 16, from which administrator may choose to enable or disable access for a selected user, col. 16, 9-22].

Although the Examiner acknowledged that *Herrington* does not show an icon on the video presentation, the Examiner asserted that *Herrington* describes use of a “lock key” while the video is playing and shows an icon [Fig. 16, col. 16, line 15], and thereby concluded that it would be obvious to show an icon within the video presentation which the user could select.

It is respectfully submitted that new claim 112 is patentable over *Herrington*. Claim 98 requires “displaying video content to a user having a first authorization level, wherein the video content includes an icon to indicate whether the video content is enabled for a second authorization level.” *Herrington*, on the other hand, states:

Illustrative program display screen 252 and illustrative parental control criteria display screens 254 and 256 of FIG. 16 may be displayed based on the illustrative steps of FIG. 13. Parental control criteria display screen 254 for locking attributes of a particular program (e.g., “Apocalypse Now”) may be displayed when a user enters a valid parental program code after pressing a lock key while video for that particular program was being displayed. A user may then change lock settings using the attribute values that are displayed for that particular program (e.g., a user may set a 10:00 p.m. lock setting). When a user has finished making desired changes, the user may be provided with an opportunity to select to which accounts the changes should be applied.

Herrington (Col. 16, lines 9-22).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that *Herrington* does not show the icon simultaneously with the media content (such as in a corner of the display screen) while the media content is displayed, but instead requires the user to select a key to view this additional information. For example, as shown below in FIG. 16 of *Herrington*, in display screen 252 (which shows the media content) there is no icon or indicator showing the accessibility of the content in regards to a second authorization level. It is only after the user has pressed the lock key that the rating for that media content is shown in display screen 254. Claim 112, on the other hand, is directed to a method that allows a user to conveniently view a variety of

different media content in real time and quickly determine whether the content is enabled for a different authorization level by the icon (see FIG. 11B and Specification page 13 ¶ 105).

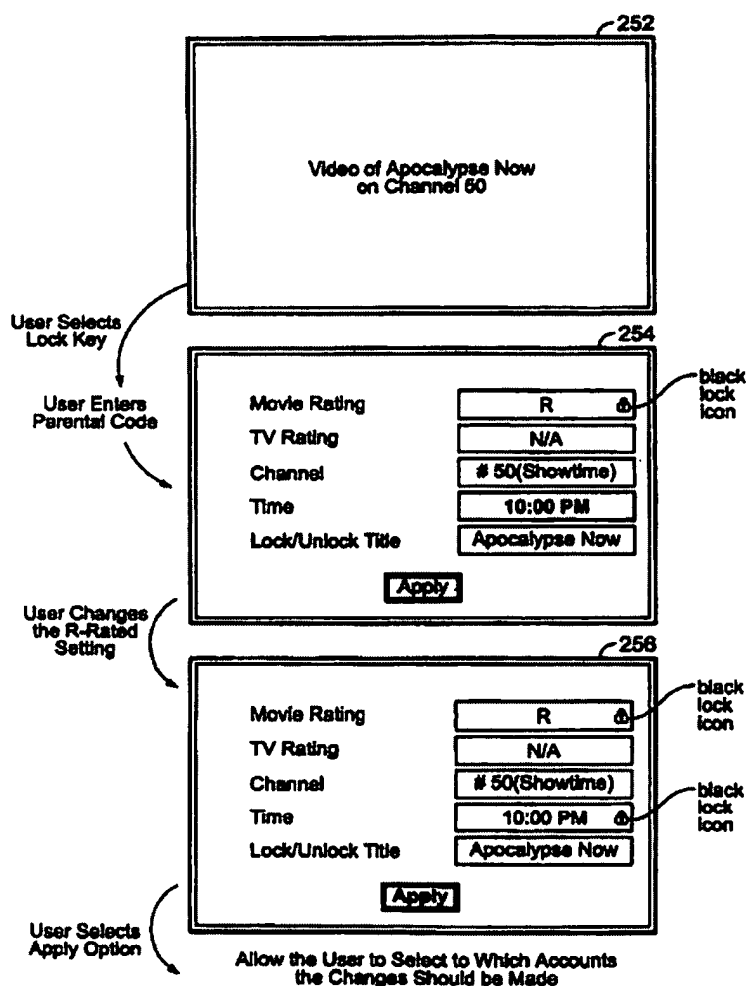


FIG. 16

Dependent Claims 113-124

Dependent claims 113-124 add additional limitations to claim 112 are believed allowable as being dependent upon allowable base claim 112.

New Independent Claim 125

New claim 125 is directed toward linking enabled programs across authorization levels, (i.e. enabling for a first authorization level media content enabled for a second

authorization level by "linking" the second authorization level to the first authorization level). More particularly, new claim 125 includes the limitation:

displaying an interactive authorization level linking screen, the interactive authorization level linking screen showing a first authorization level and a second authorization level and a linking icon to indicate whether media content enabled for the second authorization level is enabled for the first authorization level.

No new matter has been added (see e.g., pages 12-13, Paragraphs 103-104; and FIG. 9B below).

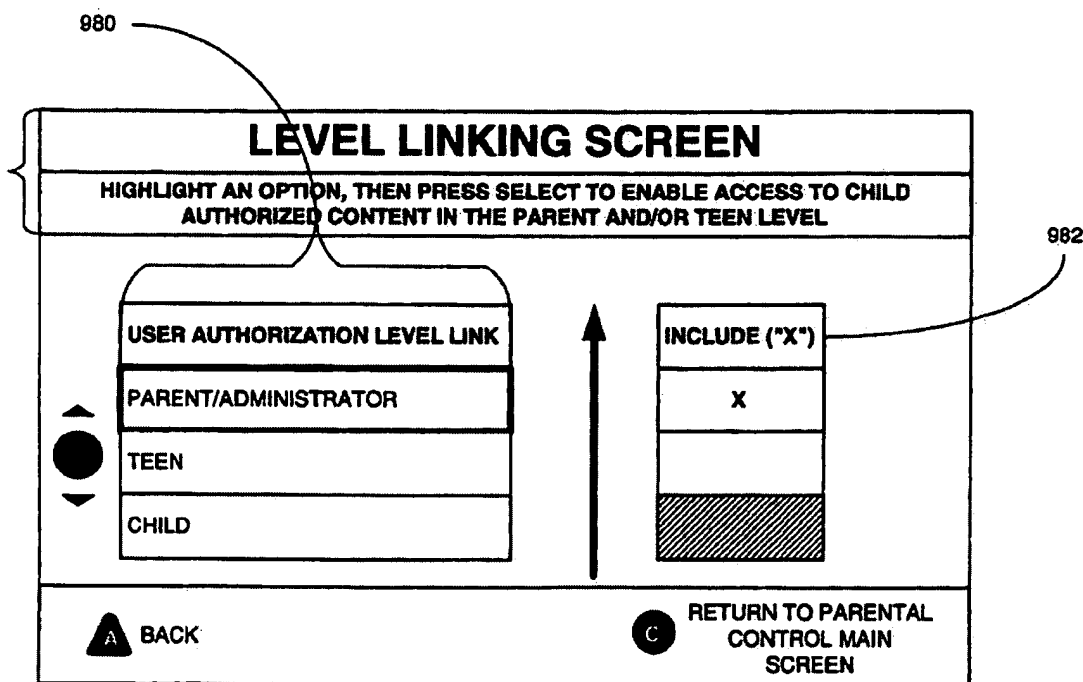


FIG. 9B

Because the media content for each authorization level is positively enabled, this allows an easy method by which media content enabled for one authorization level can be easily enabled for a second authorization level. In the interview, the Examiner referred to FIGS. 5A-B and Col. 11 lines 40-58 of *Herrington* as disclosing the ability to set up multiple accounts and setting up an account to have a specified level of access, such as a parent account or a non-parent account. It is respectfully submitted, however, that *Herrington* does not teach or disclose displaying a linking screen or linking one authorization level with another authorization level, but only setting up an account for a predetermined access, such

as assigning an account a parent or child level. Claims 125-129 relate to enabling media content that is presently enabled for a second access level to be enabled for a first access level in addition to the media content that is already enabled for the first access level. This allows a convenient method for use with systems in which viewing access is positively enabled, i.e., systems in which the user has access only what is enabled as opposed to blocking unwanted programs. For example, a parent could quickly enable media content for a higher level content, such as a parent level, with content that has previously been enabled by a lower level authorization level, such as a child level. This media content would be enabled in addition to those programs already enabled for the parent level. Most prior art systems use blocking techniques in which an administrator has access to all media content and therefore would not be motivated to link one authorization level, such as a child authorization level with another authorization level, such as a parent authorization level which would result in blocking access to media content in the parent authorization level.

Dependent Claims 126-129

Dependent claims 126-129 add additional limitations to claim 125 and are believed allowable as being dependent from allowable base claim 125.

Conclusion

This Response is believed to be fully responsive to each point raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. No fees are believed due. If additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0761.


It is believed that this Application is in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes that there are any minor issues which can be resolved via a telephone conference or by an Examiner's amendment, then the Examiner is invited to telephone Joseph Lewinski at 770-971-9607.

Respectfully submitted:

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